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Mr. Quick's work makes no pretence to completeness. It is a little disappointing to find that there is hardly any reference to Herbart in it; and, among recent English books, one cannot but regret that Mrs. Bryant's admirable work on "Educational Ends" receives no notice. Mr. Quick quotes, at one point, with approval, Professor Seeley's remark that "good books are in German." In these circumstances it is all the more desirable that we should do what we can to diffuse the knowledge of the few good books that we possess in English, among which that of Mrs. Bryant, and that of Mr. Quick himself, must undoubtedly take an honorable place.

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A STRIKE OF MILLIONAIRES AGAINST MINERS; OR, THE STORY OF SPRING VALLEY. By Henry D. Lloyd. Chicago: Belford-Clarke Company, Publishers. 1890.

The history of the Spring Valley strikes is a valuable and interesting contribution to existing literature on the labor question. It illustrates exceedingly well the complexity of the problem and the utter hopelessness of any simple and universal remedy for the ills of the body social. The whole development of Spring Valley, the method of managing the business about which the city grew up, is a striking commentary at once upon our industrial conditions and upon the ethical standards which prevail in our society.

The reviewer has no other means of judging of the truth of the story here told than the reports in the papers at the time, and a general knowledge of the conditions in and about Spring Valley. A group of men saw what they considered a fine opportunity to develop a new coal-mining centre in Northern Illinois. They made a deal with certain prominent railroads by which they secured considerable advantages in shipping coal. They bought an immense coal-field, and then began to boom a town upon it in order to get miners and to increase the general value of the property. They offered what were immense inducements to the mining population of Illinois and other States in order to get them to remove to Spring Valley. Thousands of laborers flocked thither, and for a time all went well. Wages were high, laborers eager and abundant, output large, and profits satisfactory. But a turn soon came. Whether because the speculation did not turn out well, or because the original promoters, having made immense profits, had turned the enterprise over to other people at such a price as prevented them from making anything out of it, or because the promoters, having made a handsome profit, were afraid that a continuance in the previous policy might lead to a loss in the future, and a consequent reduction in the whole mass of profit, or for some other similar reason, a change in the methods of the scheme was made.

The laborers felt that they were not fairly treated. A strike was the result. The struggle was long and bitter, and finally ended with the defeat of the strikers. All sorts of charges were made on both sides,—much truth, probably, in most of them. The result was some loss of property, or at least failure to make expected profits, and a horrible amount of suffering on the part of helpless women and children, and, perhaps, one ought to say of helpless men also. Mr. Lloyd's account makes one's blood boil; and I presume that there is much truth in what he says. It may all be true. If so, what of it?

It shows that under our present industrial system a set of men may start an enterprise, boom it, persuade thousands of people to embark their little all in it,—laborers on the one hand, and small capitalists on the other,—work the scheme for all that there is in it, bring it to a point where any further movement will bring sure ruin to all parties in it, and then withdraw and let the parties most interested in it fight it out among themselves.

It shows that public sentiment sustains a man, or set of men, in closing down their business when they see they cannot conduct it at a profit,—no matter how much profit they have previously made out of it; and no matter how much suffering such stoppage of the works may cause. It shows what cruel things corporations will do in defending their own interests, and how coolly stockholders will look upon cruelty perpetrated by the management of corporations in which they are interested: how absolutely false, therefore, is the assumption that employers under modern conditions—where they are employers through a corporate medium—will be guided in their acts by those kind and humane sentiments of regard for their fellow-men which the Church is continually trying to develop in society,—in a word, that the old saying about corporations having no bowels of compassion is strictly true. It is safe to say that no prominent individual employer in this country would treat his men as the Spring Valley corporation treated the miners, no matter how plain he appeared to himself to be in the right on all disputed points.

The story emphasizes again the fact so strongly proven by all economic history that the mining industry is a peculiar one; that the mining population is also a peculiar one; and that special laws and special efforts are necessary to regulate the former and protect the latter, a fact which our legislatures have not hitherto sufficiently regarded. It shows, also, how every great abuse in our industry is at some point connected with our railroad policy, and that no thorough-going reform, in any direction, can be permanently achieved until our railroad problem is solved.

This account proves also how quickly the great public forgets, and how deaf is the public ear to the cry of suffering and wrong; and emphasizes, therefore, the necessity of introducing such restrictions into our so-called system of free competition as shall prevent the possibility of such experiments as that in Spring Valley,—an experiment which could never have been tried if the railroads had not taken part as interested parties in the deal; if the miners had been more intelligent; if the company had not owned the houses in which the miners lived, and had not been allowed to plunder them by the system of company stores; if the real owners of the mines, viz., the stockholders, had been in personal contact with the miners in Spring Valley; if both parties had been compelled to arbitrate; if the mining industry were under proper restrictions in certain directions.

The story shows, finally, that there is little use in appealing to the sense of justice in the community to help right a wrong in a case so complicated that one cannot ascertain on which side justice lies,—at least clearly enough to carry public sentiment with one. Our way out of such difficulties lies not in preaching righteousness, though that may of course do no harm, but in trying to shape law and industry so that such cases shall not arise.

EDMUND J. JAMES.